

# The Valley COMIC N . E . W . S

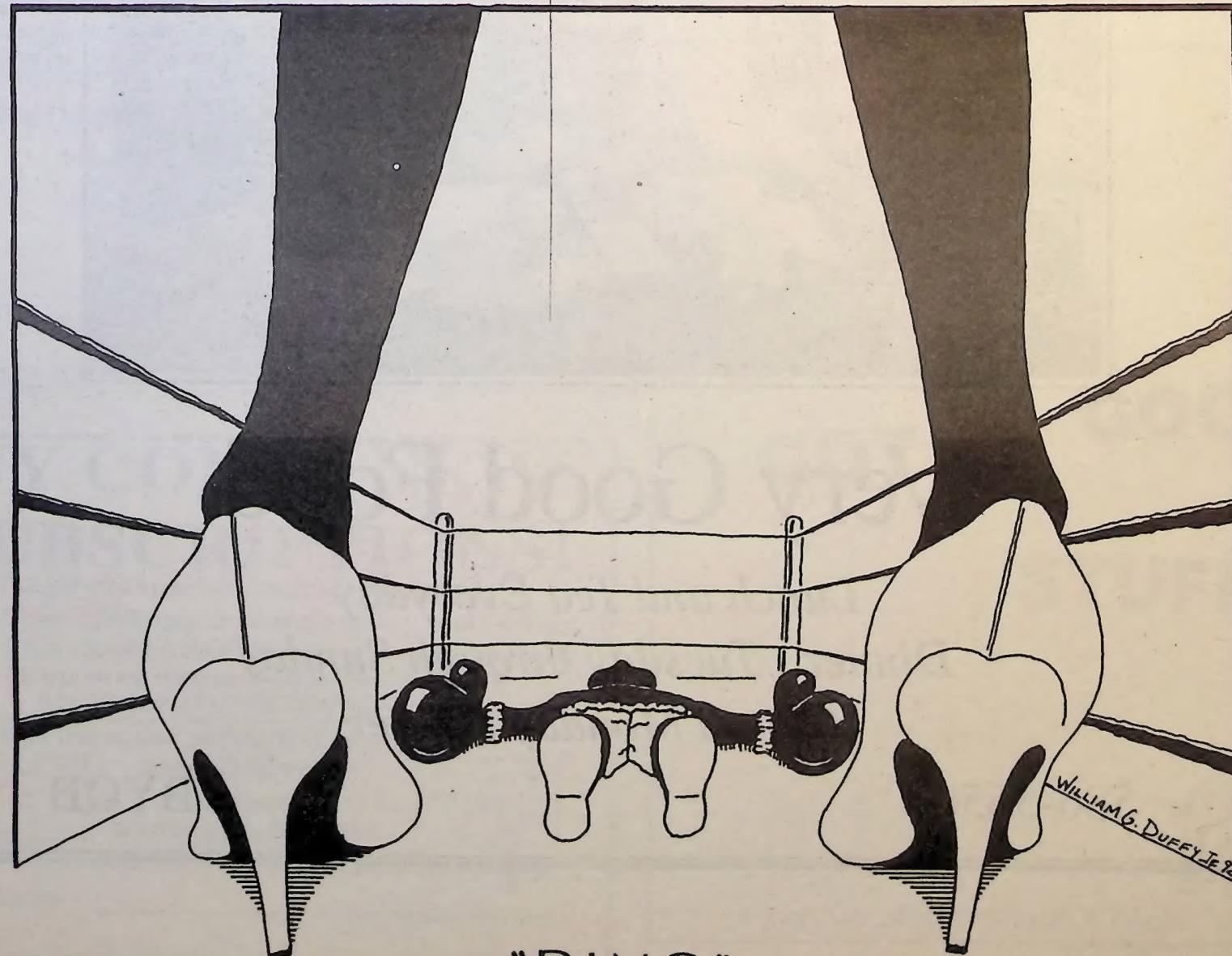
FREE



ISSUE # 57  
February 20, 1992

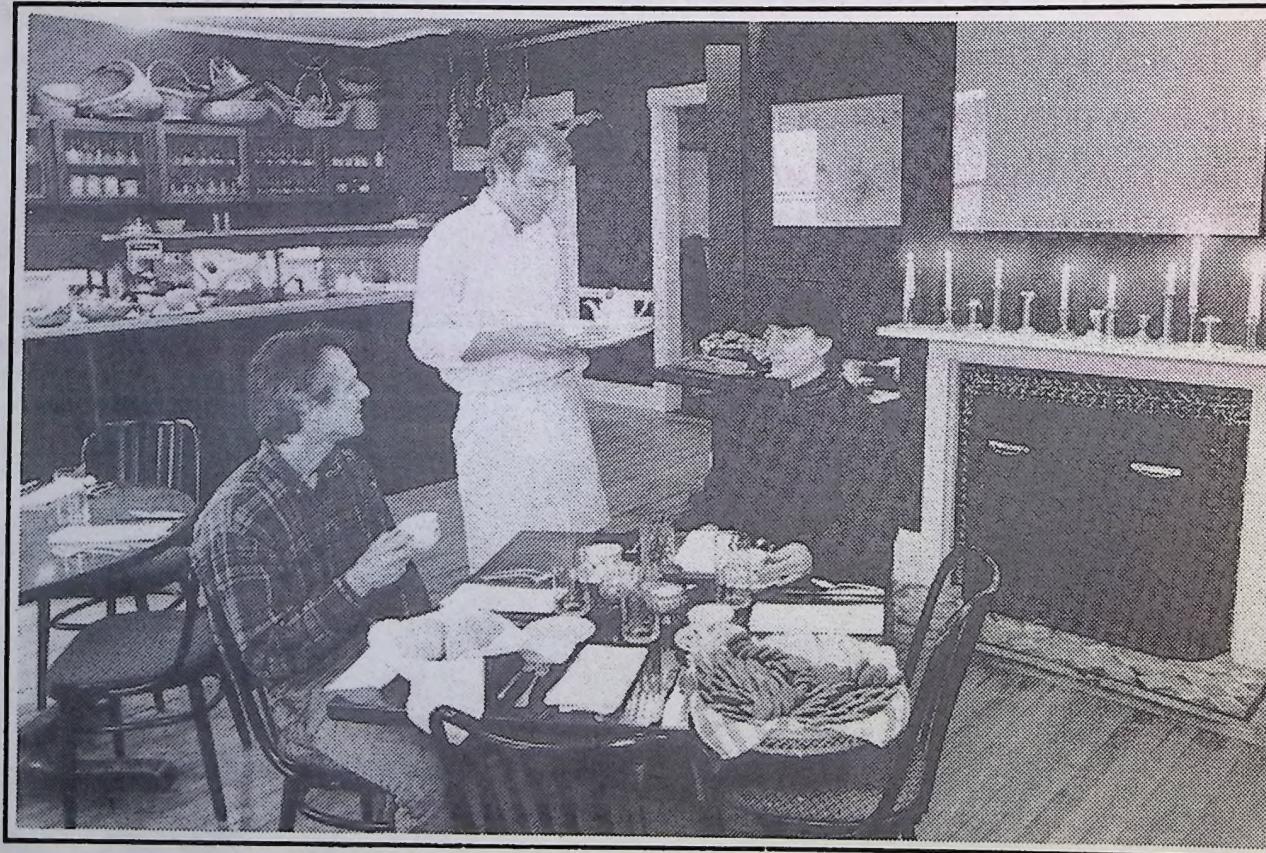
FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE, DOONESBURY,  
CALVIN & HOBBS, VIEWS OF THE WORLD,  
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT, THE BRASS AND FERN,  
EARTHWEEK, IZZY GESELL'S *HUMOR ME*,  
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD, THIS MODERN WORLD,  
LOCAL HEROES

STORIES:  
DEALING FOR DOLLARS  
SEXUAL POLITICS  
GET BACK  
DR. NO



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BYOB

# PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman

So here we are in America, the most technologically advanced nation in the world, and we can't make car commercials where the wheels look like they're going forwards. I'm positive there are Japanese and Germans and even some enlightened Albanians who just snigger every time they see one of those ads. Snigger! They know car wheels are supposed to run forwards, even if the chowderheads who make car commercials don't. And I really have to wonder — why don't the chowderheads know? Could it be that nobody's ever told them? It seems farfetched, but I suppose it's remotely possible for a chowderhead who's lived all his/her life in a TV studio not to know that if car wheels *really* did what it looks like they do in the car ads (spin slowly backwards while the car is rocketing toward the horizon), then that incredibly hot Spitfire Marauder ZX300 would simply explode axle parts, grease, and scalding transmission fluid all over the camera crew, while the anguished drivers (that sultry babe and gorgeous hunk) watch their car-commercial modelling careers head right down the toilet.

But maybe I'm being naive. That would be a switch. Usually I'm known as "The Cynic's Cynic," or "Mr. Spoil-Everything-That's-Wholesome," which is what's printed on my business cards. Mr. Spoil-Everything would tell you that the people making those car commercials, along with the car company executives who authorize their incredibly bloated salaries...all those extremely rich people *do* know that car wheels are supposed to run forwards. Furthermore, they know that with just a teensy bit more care paid to the technical details of car commercial-making, the wheels *could* look like they're running forwards. They know all this. *But they don't care!* They don't care for a simple reason: they don't have to. Because they also know that with all those shiny cars flashing in a blur along that lonesome California road; with all those dollar signs filling up the screen (high, high rebates; low, low APR); with those beautiful drivers (they're *actors*) beckoning you to share their bucket seat...they've already thrown so many bogus images at the poor idiot couch potato that *it doesn't matter if the wheels run backwards!* They believe that if customers buy a car based on car commercials, they deserve what they get.

Unfortunately for the future of the human race, the car-commercial people are probably right. Because Americans believe what they see on TV. You've all read those ads in the supermarket tabloids: Amazing New Cuticle Clipper That Doubles As Workout Machine — As Seen On TV!!! To Americans this means, "As Actually Spoken By God!!!" So it doesn't take a genius to figure out that all over the country, every day of the year, there are TV-watchers shuffling into automobile showrooms and going, "I want that there JL28 that goes zero to sixty in 3 seconds...and then backs up." And the salesperson answers, "Sure -- that model comes factory-equipped with matching actors and 50,000 miles of guaranteed driving as fast as you can on winding roads by the ocean, and you'll never meet another car. Sign here. Snigger."

## The Valley Comic News

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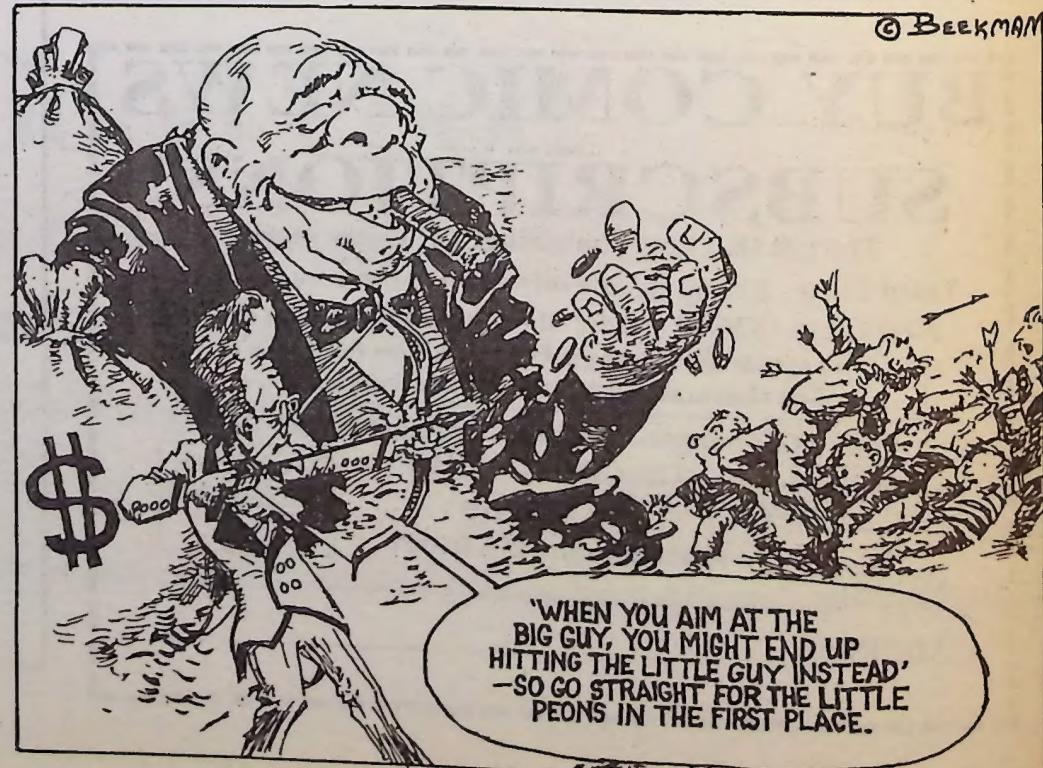
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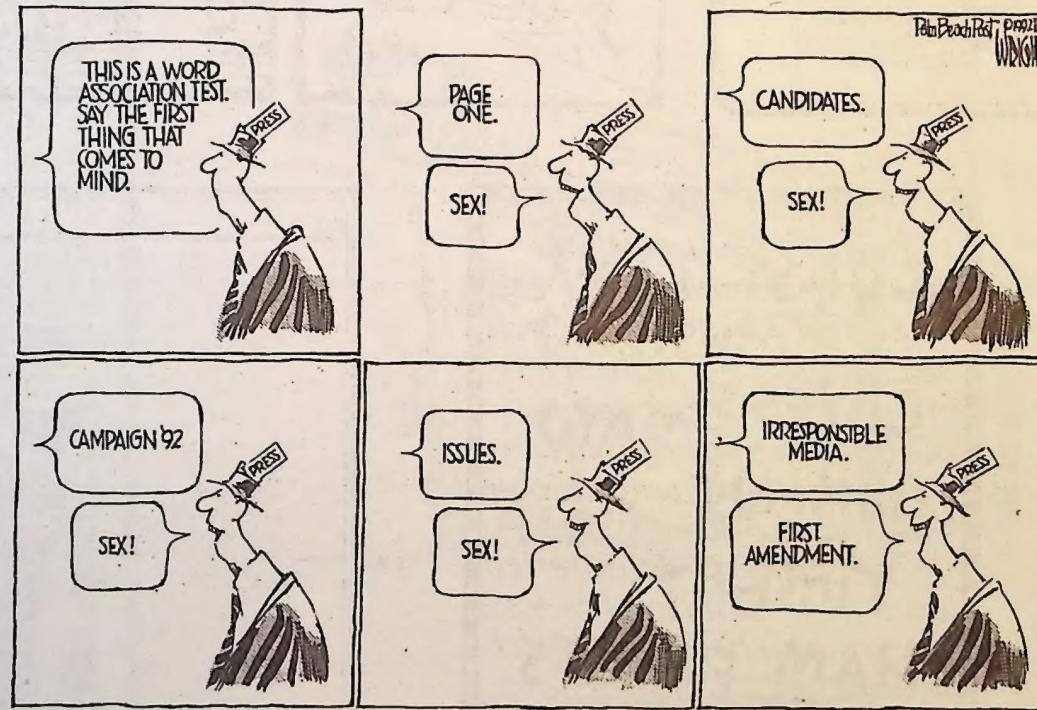
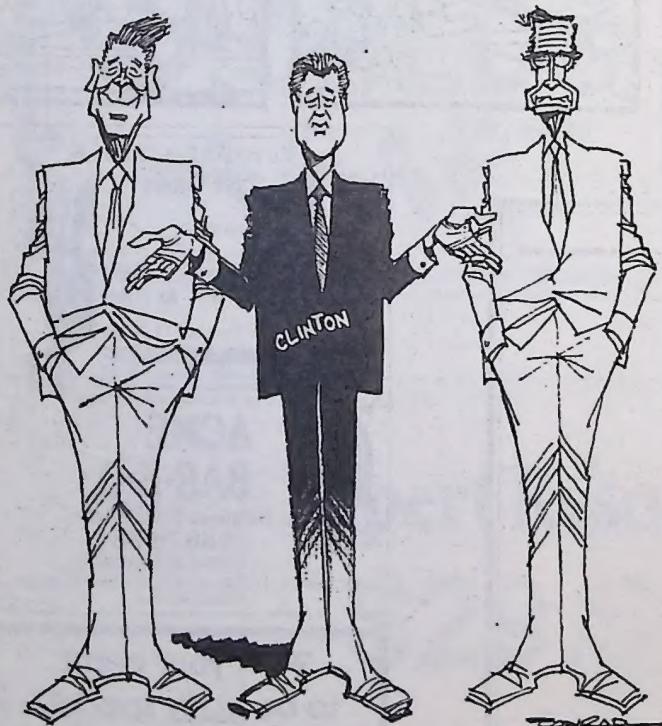
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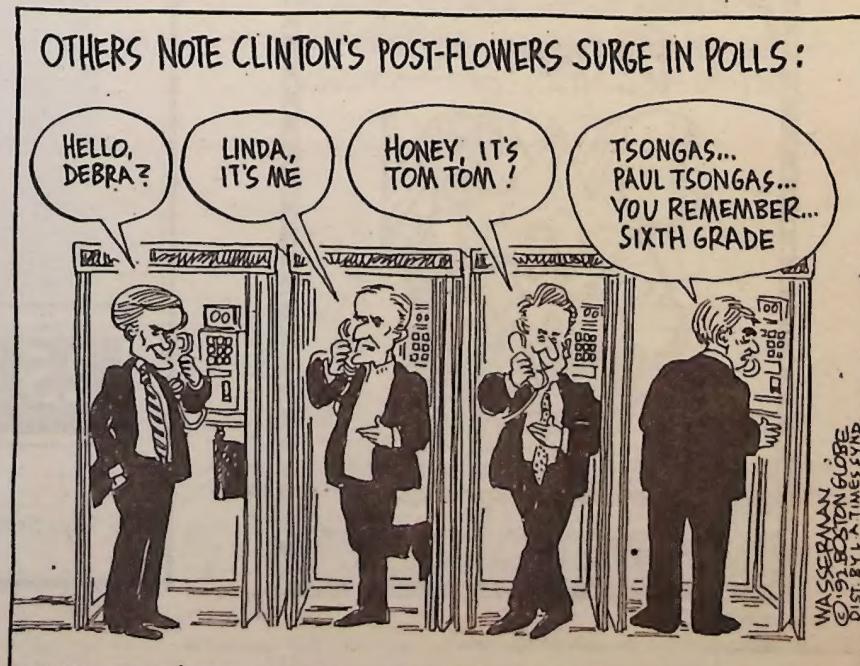


# SEXUAL POLITICS



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## By Steve Riehm



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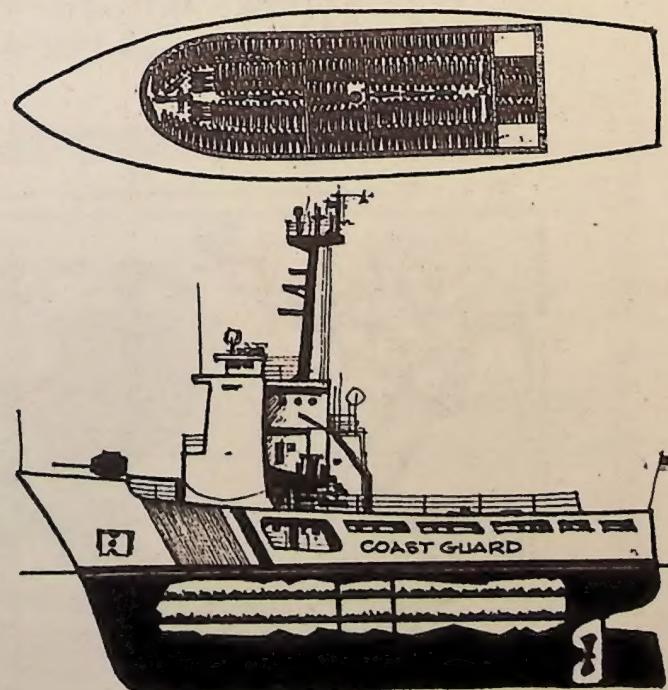
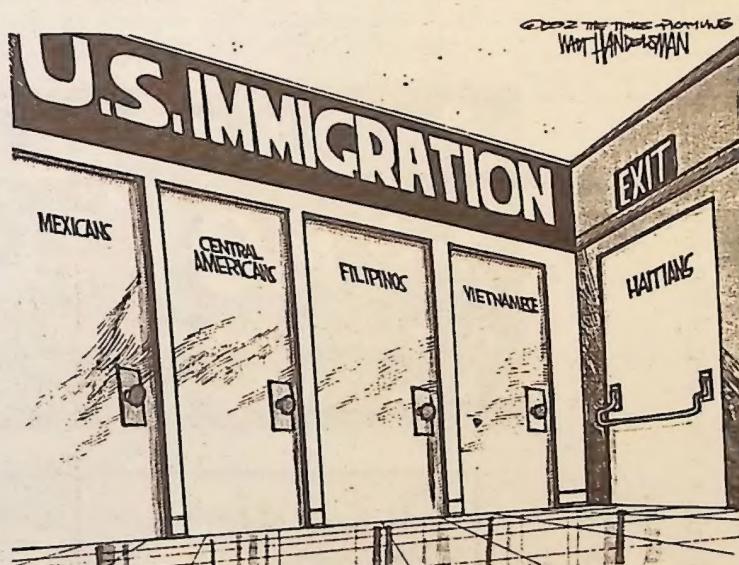
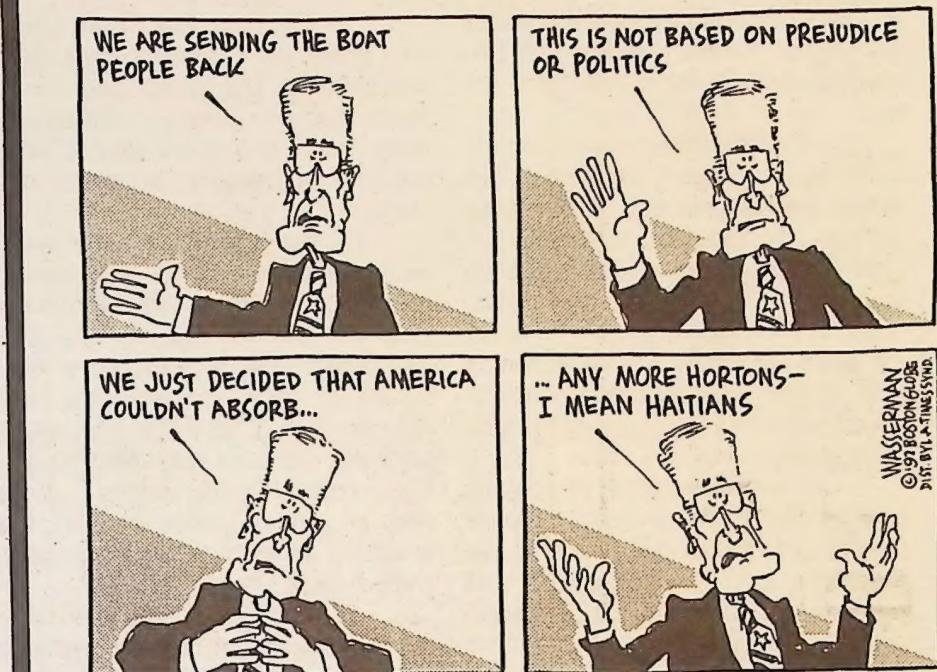
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# JOE BOB BRIGGS

I get these letters from people who wanna write "short stories." I never get letters from people who wanna write "long stories."

It's like they're renting their typewriter by the hour or something. The letters always start out, "I love short stories. Have you ever read Saki?"

Listen to me. Get this through your head. *Nobody loves short stories.* The only thing Saki is good for is washing down chop suey. The only people who say they love short stories are the people who also say they wanna write short stories.

I don't know when this comes over people. It's like malaria. One day they're perfectly normal. The next day they wake up in hysterics, shivering all over, convinced they have to go out and write short stories. Because there's no other rational explanation.

It's like the guys in film school who make short films. I don't mean music videos. There's a reason to make music videos. *Dinero.* I mean little three-minute and six-minute and eight-minute films where they're trying to tell a story.

Listen up again: The whole world *hates* these things. *Stop making these!* Do you hear me? I've been a judge of short-film competitions all over the country. They're like a form of mental torture. Introduce a character, have the character go to the grocery store, have the character talk about his life, say goodbye to the character — that's what you do in a short film. It's like watching somebody digest a goat-cheese salad.

I can only think of one possible reason to make short films — to get a job writing for "Saturday Night Live." They

haven't had a sketch in ten years that has an *ending*. They just introduce a joke, tell the same joke in ten different ways, and then go to a commercial with the actors standing around looking vaguely uncomfortable. These people are the only people in the world who actually *like* stories that have a beginning, but no middle and no end.

Or how about "one-act plays"? Got any actor friends? Ever hear this? "We're doing an evening of one-acts."

Could I please have my fingernails ripped out, one by one, instead?

There are *thousands* of these one-act plays. The only reason I can figure out for these things to exist is that people were too *lazy* to write, rehearse, and perform a *real* play.

"Well, really, Joe Bob, it's just a character study. Slice of life."

*Slice up somebody else's life!*

When did we get this passion for *unfinished plays*? Because that's all they are. When we read a book, watch a movie, go to the theater, we wanna feel like we *finished* something. Is this so hard to understand?

Do you know how annoying this is? I'm gonna tell you the name of the most annoying writer, filmmaker and playwright in America. The one who's the biggest loser and faker on the face of the earth. The guy who couldn't tell a complete story if his life depended on it.

But I can't, because this is a short one-act column. It's over.

To discuss the meaning of life with Joe Bob, or to get his world-famous "We Are the Weird" newsletter, write P.O. Box 2002, Dallas, TX 75221. Joe Bob's Fax line is always open: 214-368-2310.

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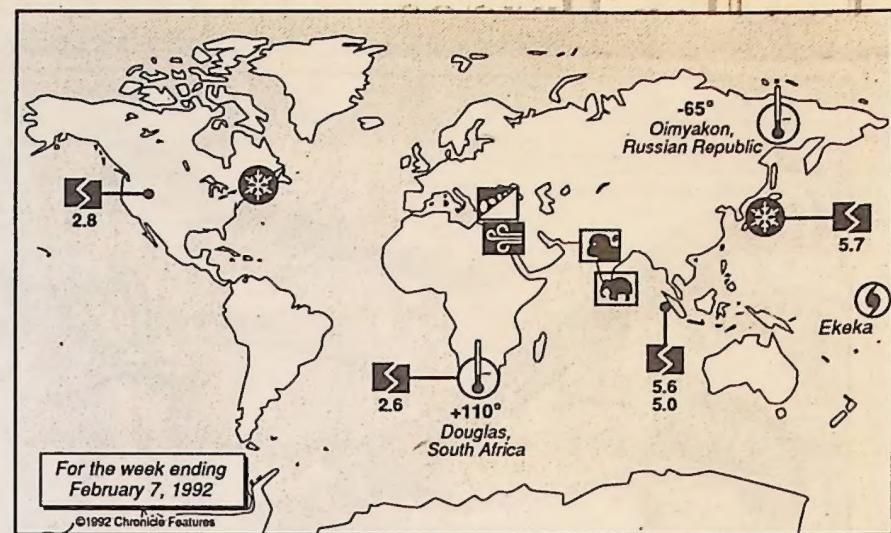
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## EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

## Mideast Storm

Unusually severe weather struck many parts of the eastern Mediterranean. Cyprus received its first snowfall in 40 years, while extremely rare blizzards swept across Jordan. Villages and towns were cut off in both countries. Heavy rains in Lebanon and Israel caused flooding that swamped roads and knocked out telephone circuits. Three soldiers belonging to the United Nations peacekeeping force in the Golan Heights were swept away by flood waters which poured into Syria when an Israeli-built reservoir burst its banks. In Egypt, 14 people were killed as a result of a sandstorm that whipped across the country. Most were killed by uprooted trees or collapsed structures.



## Avalanche

The Turkish government declared the mountainous region of southeast Anatolia a catastrophe zone after avalanches killed nearly 200 people in six separate villages. Most of the dead were in Gormec, in the province of Sirmak, bordering Iraq, where the bodies of 71 soldiers and 49 Kurdish civilians were recovered. The government asked the survivors to move to safer locations because of continuing heavy snowfall in the region.

## War Victims

Land mines planted by Tamil separatists in Sri Lanka have killed or dismembered a large number of elephants, according to one of the country's leading wildlife conservationists. Mazeer Hamdoon, director of the Save the Elephant Trust Foundation, said that many top army personnel had informed him of "this grave destruction" in eastern Amparai, Trincomalee, and Batticaloa areas. It is estimated that there are only 3,200 surviving elephants in the island nation, compared to more than 10,000 at the turn of the century.

## Winter's Worst

A blustery winter storm brought Moncton, New Brunswick, its heaviest snowfall from a single storm in the town's history. By the time the 110-hour-long storm abated, more than 63 inches of snow had fallen, and winds of up to 70 miles per hour had created 20-foot-high drifts. Schools and businesses throughout the Canadian Maritime Provinces were closed, and traffic was at a standstill from the second blizzard to strike within a week.

Tokyo's heaviest snowfall in six years knocked out power lines, blocked roads and airport runways, and left scores of fallen pedestrians hospitalized with broken bones.

## Tropical Storm

Ekka, the first North Pacific hurricane to form during January in 25 years, dissipated as it passed over the Marshall Islands archipelago.

## Earthquakes

A sharp pre-dawn tremor, and several aftershocks, rocked the Tokyo area, injuring at least 30 people and causing several small blazes. Ten South African miners died when a weak tremor unleashed a rock fall in one of the world's deepest gold mines, near Carletonville, 60 miles southwest of Johannesburg. Hundreds of homes were destroyed by two quakes in southern and western Sumatra. A weak quake was felt in Wyoming.

## Correction

Last week's column incorrectly reported that the lowest temperature measured by the more than 6,500 official worldwide synoptic weather stations was minus 134 degrees in Chelyuskin, Siberia. The coldest was actually minus 67 degrees at Renland, Greenland. The error was due to improper coding of the weather data at the Russian weather station. The cold-

est temperature ever recorded in the northern hemisphere was minus 81 degrees at the town of Snag in the Yukon Territory on February 3, 1947.

## Monkey Business

Indian officials released a monkey into the wild after it had been arrested and caged for 66 days because of the animal's amorous exploits. The monkey was captured two months ago after it had "molested" some 30 young women patients and nurses in a hospital near the Kashmir winter capital of Jammu by hugging and kissing them. The government ordered the monkey to be shot after nurses threatened to go on strike, but it was trapped alive when devout Hindus demanded that its life be spared. The adventurous animal was last seen fleeing into the forest, swinging from tree to tree.

*Additional Sources: U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.*

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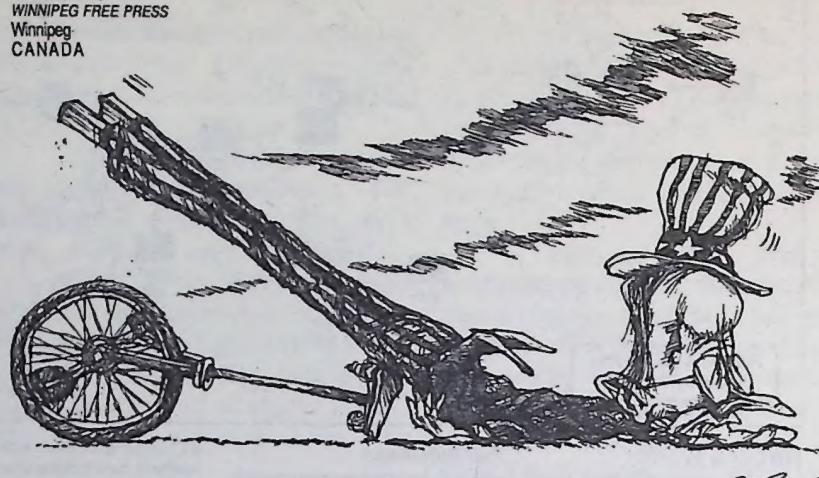
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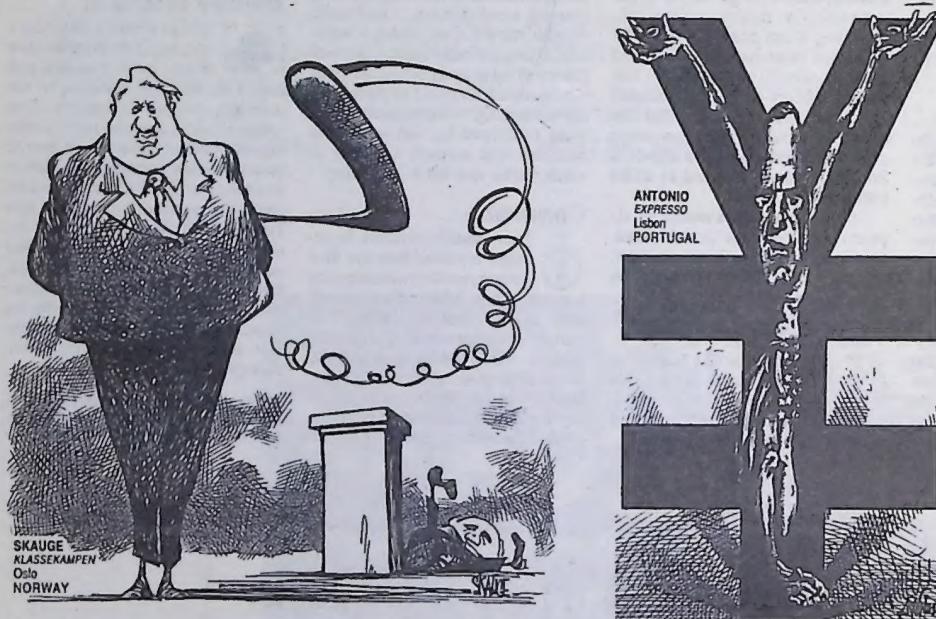
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# THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

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by TOM TOMORROW

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by TOM TOMORROW

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## TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

Dorothea Viehmann grew up in an inn kept by her mother and father near Kassel, Germany. She listened to talk of travelers. And eventually told what she'd heard to two men named Grimm. According to the literary footnotes, it was from her narrations that those brothers got many if not most of their renowned fairy tales.

Q. Let's see your know-it-all baseball expert identify Burns Bintliff.  
A. Burns Bintliff of Delaware, I shyly reply, is the supplier of 182 pounds of mud bought annually by each major league team for rubbing baseballs.

Now a client claims the longest word you can write with only the qwerty (top) row of your keyboard is "typewriter."

Five percent of the world's people get 75 percent of its income.

Not every woman knows the key ingredient in her eye liner. It's kohl. Made in Egypt from olive pits burned slowly to charcoal in special copper pots. Even as it was centuries ago.

Houseflies hatched in the summer live three weeks. About. Houseflies hatched in the autumn, six months.

Monkeys don't have fleas.

Did I mention that 40 percent of the peanut butter sandwiches have grape jelly in them?

Ants follow an ant trail. If it intersects with itself to complete a circle, they may walk in that circle until they fall dead. Ants don't look ahead.

An advisor on social manners insists: "Never talk about your child or your dog. They're of no interest to anyone except you."

To the early French, the four suits in playing cards symbolized the four classes of society: Hearts for the church, spearpoints (spades) for the military, diamond-shaped tiles for the merchants, and cloverleaves (clubs) for the peasants. Order of importance suggested the military overpowered the church, the church subdued the merchants, and the merchants dominated the peasants.

McCall's magazine didn't start a pattern business. McCall's pattern business started the magazine.

A cure for his hangover, that's what William the Conqueror craved when he so sorrowfully bleated, "Oh, send me the man who can remove the beehive from my brain!"

Business historians say it was not the shape of the candy that made Life-Savers such a remarkable success, but their counter display next to the cash register.

A medical specialist says, Nobody yet knows how many different types of memory we have.

If the word starts with "sk," it probably came from the Old Norse spoken by the Vikings.

The inventor of the transistor, Walter Brattain, was asked if his creation, like the atom bomb, had any ominous threatening possibilities. He said, "Rock 'n' roll."

Niagara Falls water is said to drop at 80 mph.

It's known the Sumerians of five millennia ago made beer in eight flavors.

If a crime occurs when a driver picks up a hitchhiker, the hitchhiker is three times more likely than the driver to be the victim.

Whale experts say the orca never kills for sport.

Q. You said colonial Philadelphia once made it illegal to take a bath more than once a month. Why?

A. A morality matter. Bathing called for nudity. That invited promiscuity. Or so believed the ordinance-makers.

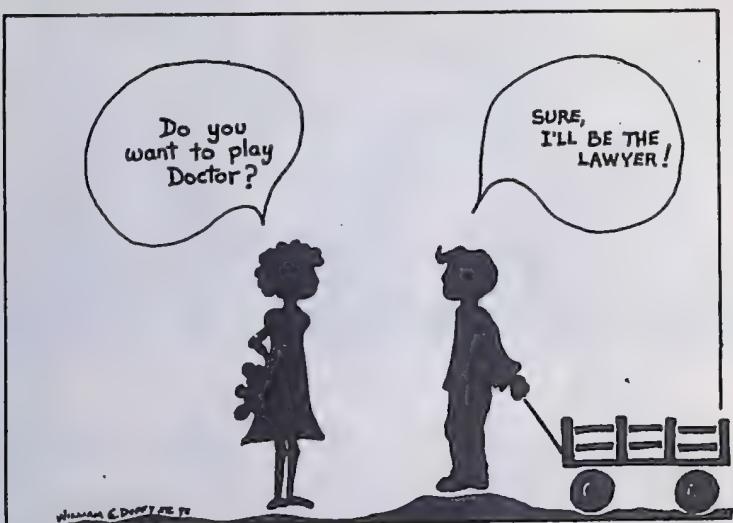
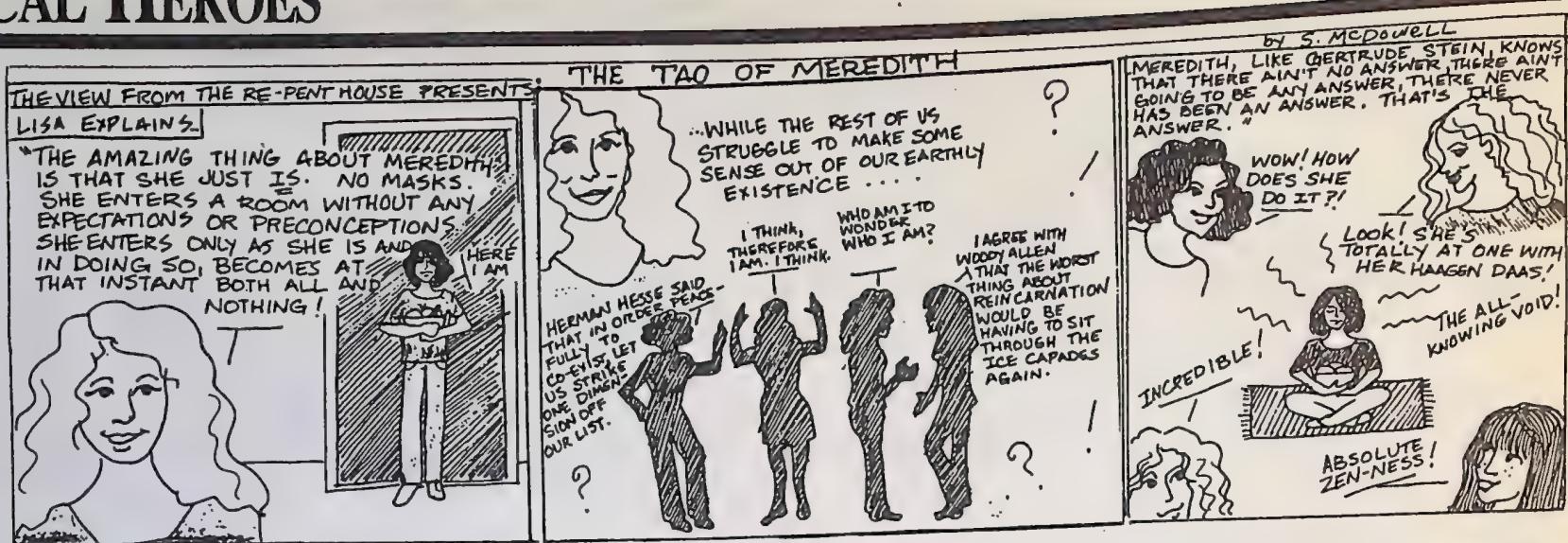
First of Europe's settlers were the Basques. DNA tests purportedly prove it.

Two percent of the world's population — Americans — use 60 percent of the world's illicit drugs.

Many an earthworm lives more than 10 years.

A lottery financed the original London Bridge.

# LOCAL HEROES

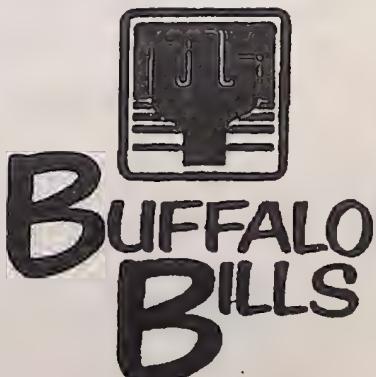


James always pulled out his cornet at the wrong time.

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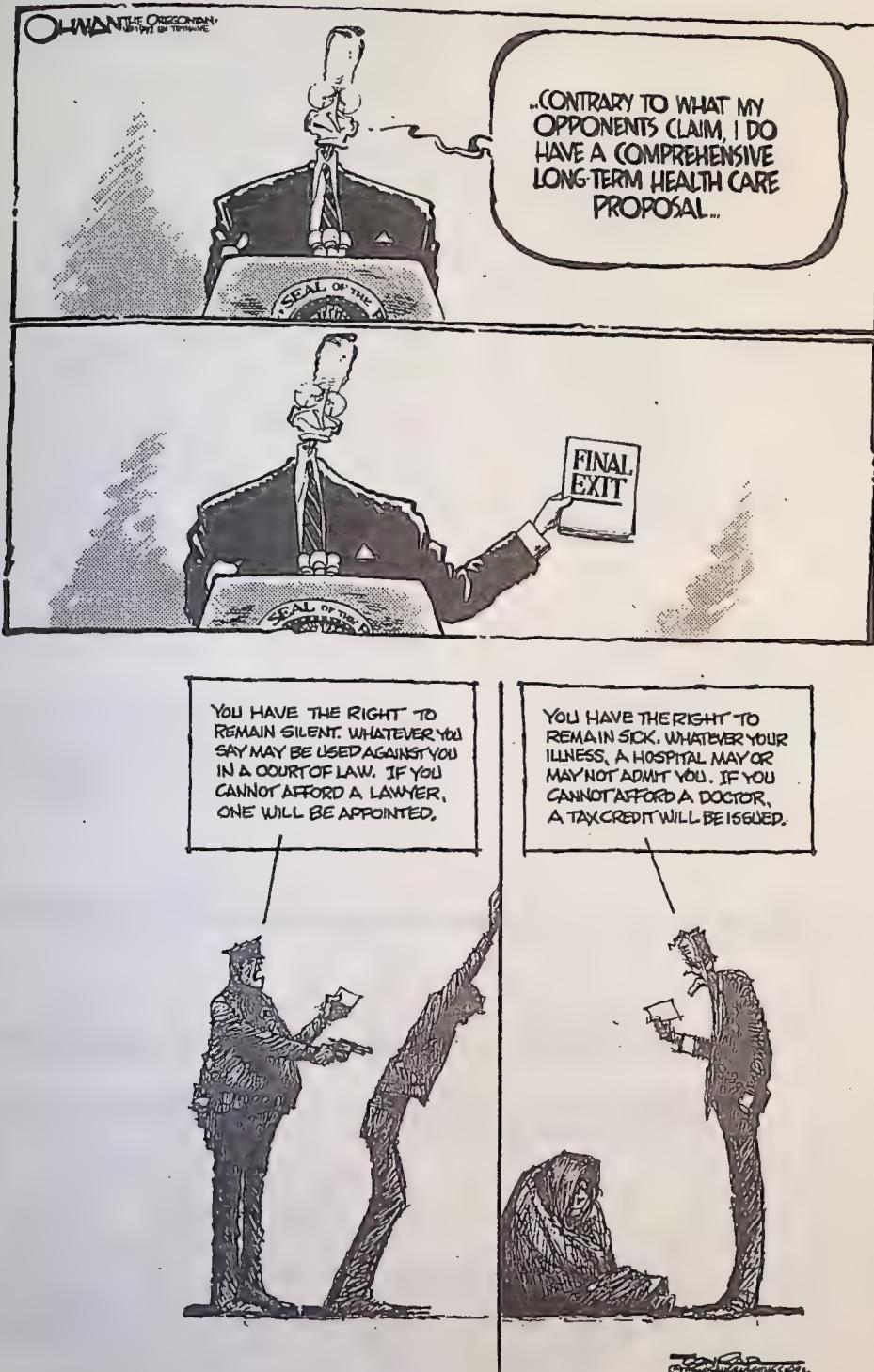
*Now you don't have to drive a junk!*  
Obviously, auto dealers don't pay \$32 per hour  
to get their used cars fixed.

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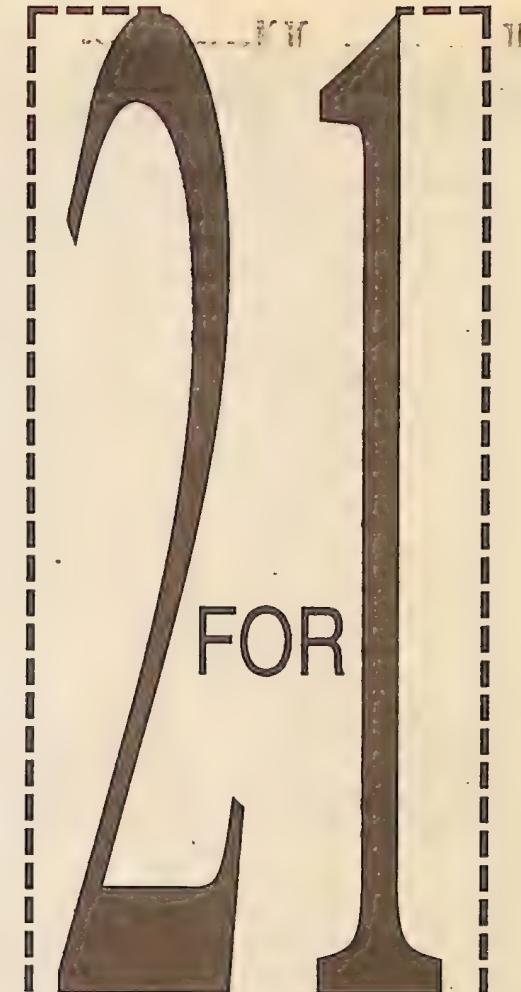
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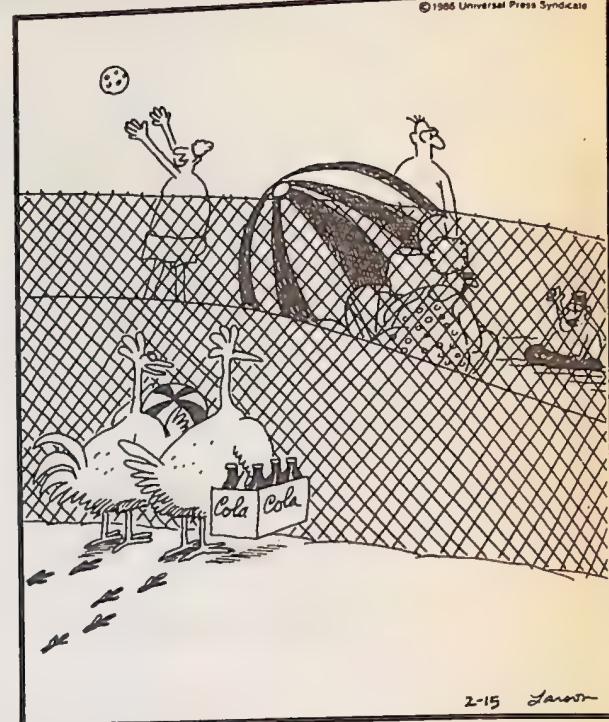
By GARY LARSON



"Hey! So I made the wrong decision! . . . But you know, I really wasn't sure I wanted to swing on a star, carry moonbeams home in a jar!"



"Same as the others, O'Neill. The flippers, the fishbowl, the frog, the lights, the armor. . . . Just one question remains: Is this the work of our guy, or a copycat?"



"Well, wouldn't you know it — we've come all this way to our favorite beach and someone's strung chicken wire around it."

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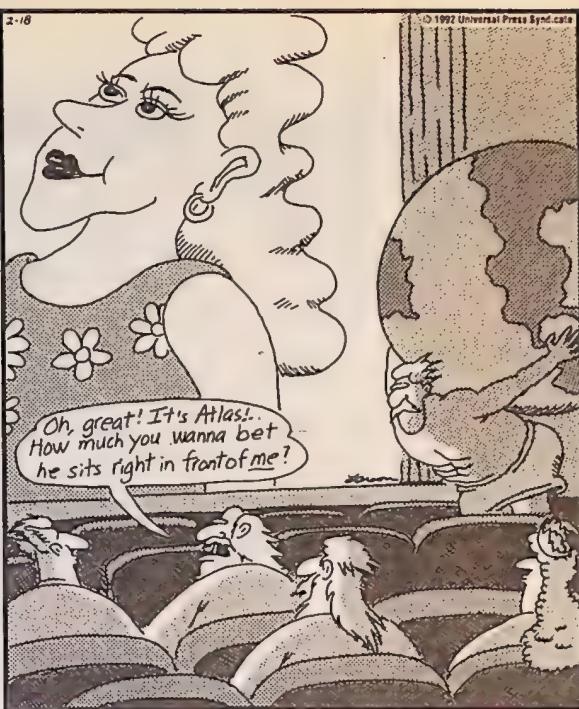
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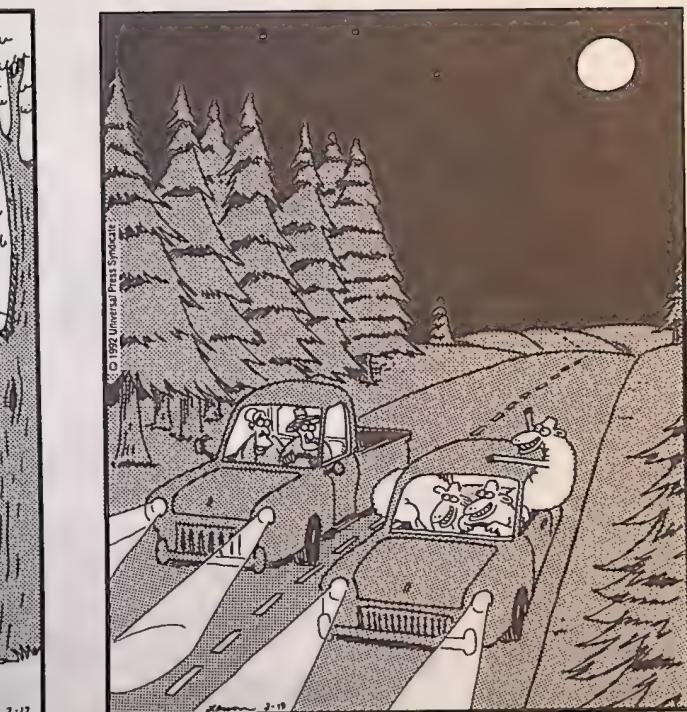


Theater of the Gods

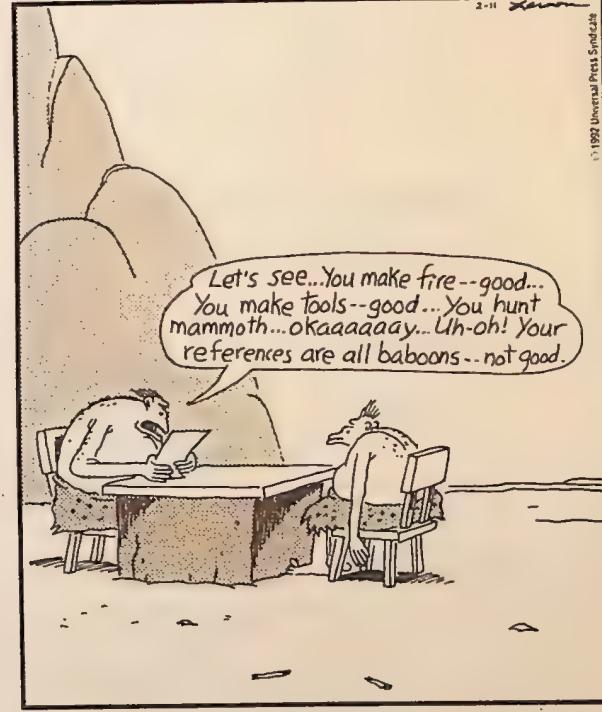


2-17

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Sheep that pass in the night



Primitive resumes

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The Samson family at home



"Go back to sleep, Chuck. You're just havin' a nightmare -- of course, we are still in hell."



2-13 Larson  
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**LEOLD** BY ROGER SALLOOM

After dinner last night my mother was yelling at me, crying and laughing all at once. She said it's my fault she lost her mind.

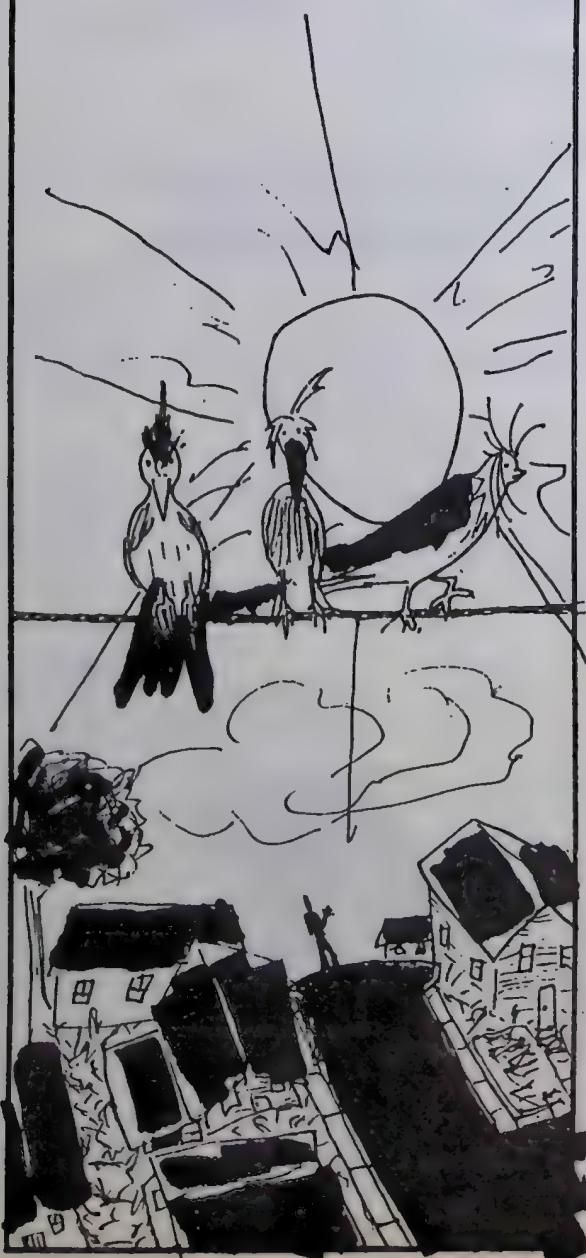
I told her I lost part of my mind when she got a divorce.

She screamed she didn't care.

I left the front door open so her parrot would fly away.

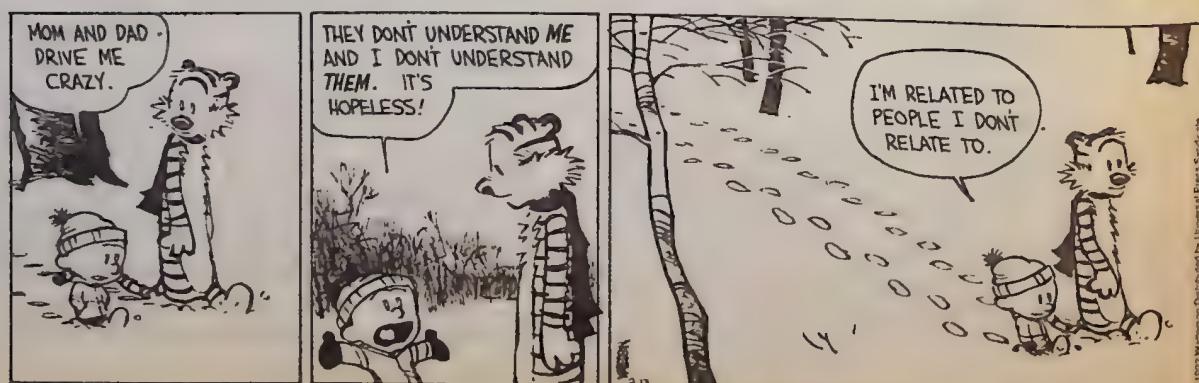
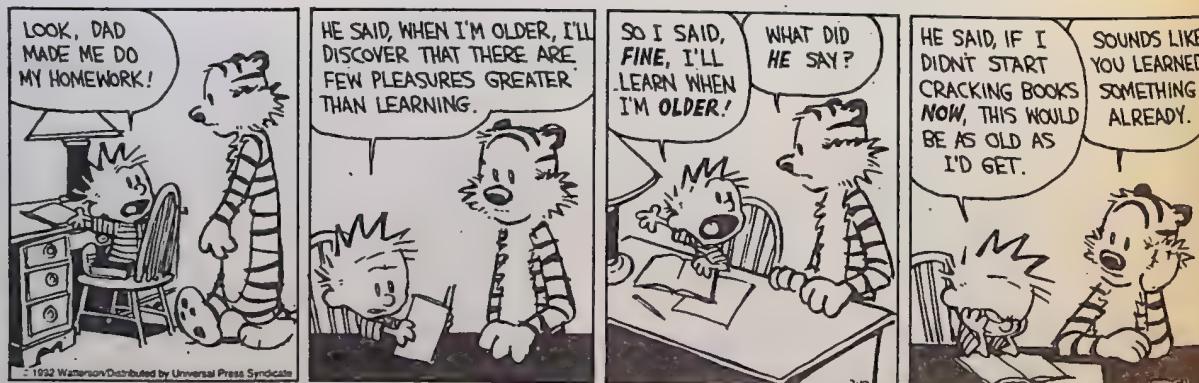
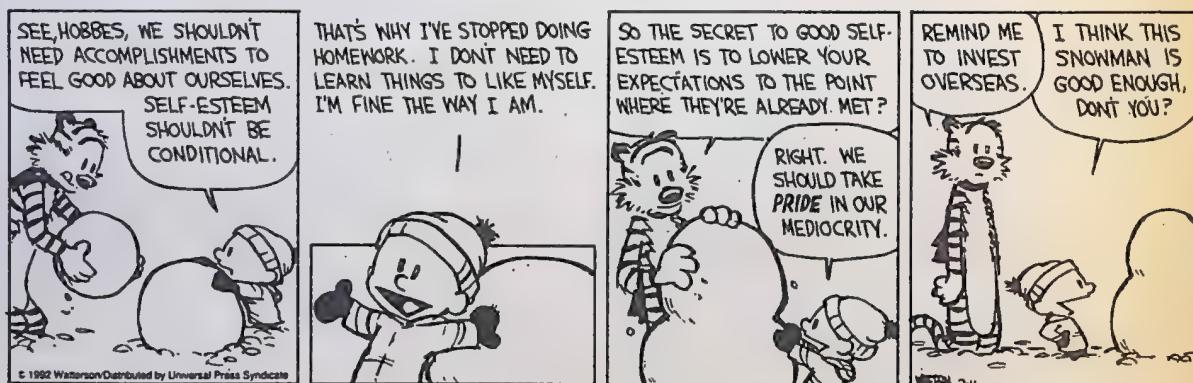
I love our little talks after dinner.

I'll bet things look better from up there on the telephone line.



# calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATTERSON



HERE WE STAND, PEERING DOWN THE DIZZYING DEPTHS OF DOOM DROP! DO WE TURN AROUND AND RETREAT TO THE STUPEFYING SECURITY OF HOME AND HEARTH?



OR DO WE BRAVE THE DESCENT, RISK DEMISE, AND EXPERIENCE THE FLOOD OF SOMATIC SENSATION THAT SCREAMS WE ARE ALIVE, GLORIOUSLY ALIVE, HOWEVER TEMPORARILY??



HERE'S THE LATEST POLL ON YOUR STANDING AS "DAD."

WONDERFUL.



THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT YOU HAVE A HIGH NAME-RECOGNITION FACTOR. ALL THE HOUSEHOLD SIX-YEAR-OLDS POLLED WERE ABLE TO IDENTIFY YOU AS "DAD."

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THIS RECOGNITION, HOWEVER, IS LINKED TO THE FACT THAT YOUR POLICIES ARE UNIVERSALLY DEPLORED. THERE'S TALK ABOUT VOTING YOU OUT OF OFFICE AND MAKING MOM "DAD".



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I THOUGHT THE QUESTION WAS RHETORICAL.

THE OTHER WAY, THOUGH!



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I SEE. AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS?

MY FIRST ACT WILL BE TO MAKE YOU DO THE COOKING.



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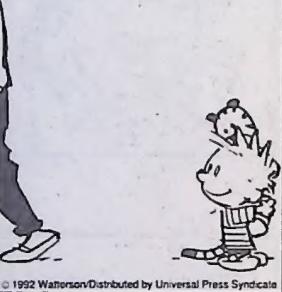
WHOA! THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING!

DAD'S CALLING YOU.



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WONDERFUL.



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HE WASN'T? HUH! WELL, HOBBS TOOK YOUR CHAIR. SORRY.



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I LIKE MY CHAIRS PRE-WARMED.

YOU OWE ME.



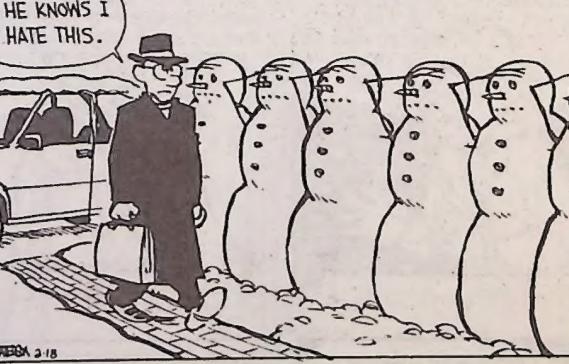
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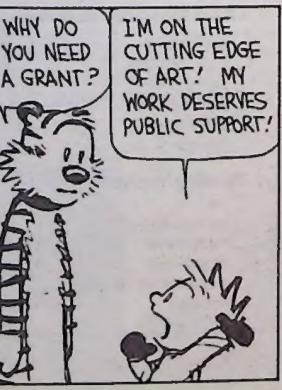


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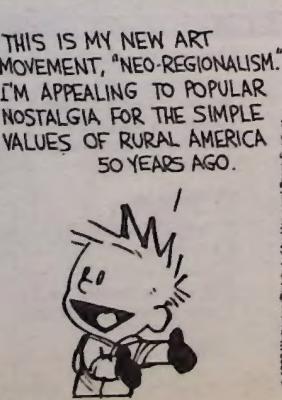
THIS IS MY SNOW SCULPTURE, "BOURGEOIS BUFFOON." CAN YOU BELIEVE MOM REJECTED MY GRANT APPLICATION TO CONTINUE MAKING THESE?



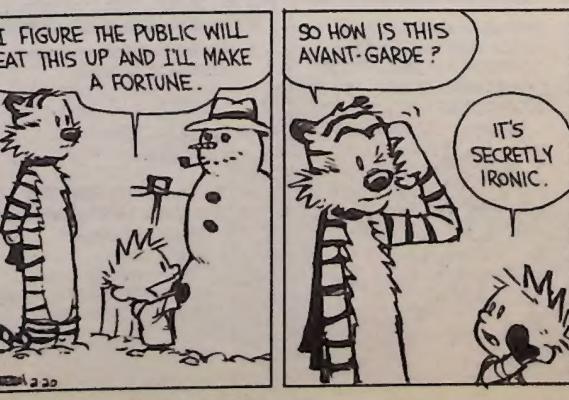
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# BROWN'S BILLIARDS

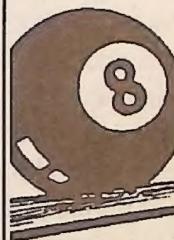
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# humor me

by Izzy Gesell

Walking into the local supermarket the other day, I immediately sensed something was different. I do all the shopping for my family so I know my emporium and the kinds of people who patronize it pretty well. Experienced shoppers have a placid aura about them. Having decided to spend an hour and a half navigating the aisles, they are calm. The people in the store were anything but.

It took me only a second to figure out why that was - the place was crawling with males who obviously never spent much time grocery shopping.

These folks usually got their food at Cumberland Farms, one meal at a time. They never bought more than they could bring to the cash register in their two hands. So what were they doing in the Super Buy and Fly at 5 PM on a Friday? Closer scrutiny revealed that they were all in the corner of the store where the flower shop was. Egad! It was Valentine's Day and these were the unfortunates who hadn't yet purchased a gift for their sweethearts. With an instinct for survival rivaling anything ever seen on a PBS nature show they had lemminged to the one place where they could be sure of not screwing up.

Surrounding the offerings, the men checked both price and what the other desperate fellows were choosing. Generally, the suits were buying roses and the casual clothes were clutching bouquets of various sorts. I hadn't seen roses move this fast since I covered a Moonie convention in Pamplona. For some reason, the non-rose bouquets were various combinations of purple flowers. "These all look the same," I overheard one guy mutter. "It doesn't matter what you get," another answered mechanically, "just as long as you bring something." Ain't that the truth.

I took my choice to the checkout line that had been set up just for flower purchases. Here the atmosphere was calmer. Everyone was relaxed because the hard part was over and no one was going home empty-handed. There was a feeling of smug satisfaction on the faces in line. The camaraderie among this group of procrastinating strangers was similar to that of a hometown crowd leaving a sports stadium after a great, upset victory. I wanted to turn to the man behind me and give him a high five. "Yeah. Good work. You picked a nice one. Have a good night." (wink, wink) If beer companies targeted "sensitive guys," this would be Miller Time.

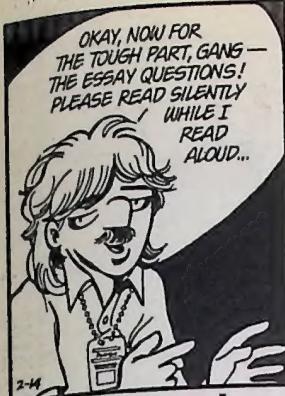
Out on the street, I was struck by how widespread this floral instinct was. Males of all ages, sizes and socio-economic levels were carrying flowers. Metalheads, stockbrokers, hippies, construction workers, third graders and college students all had some kind of blossom in their hands and a look on their faces that said, "See, I've done something right. I did it and I'm even showing off in public. Aren't I a good boy? Can I have my treat now?"

I hear that next year Robert Bly and Merlin Olsen will jointly sponsor an FTD bouquet. The flowers will come in a reusable, ceramic belly of a beast. Grrrrr....

# Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU

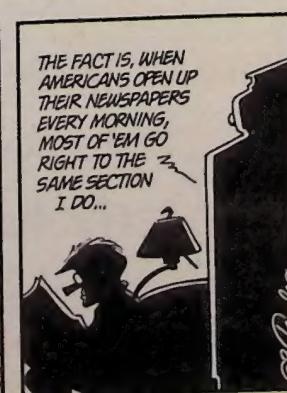
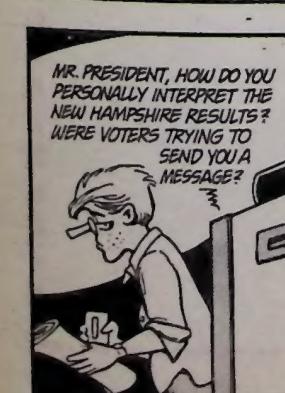
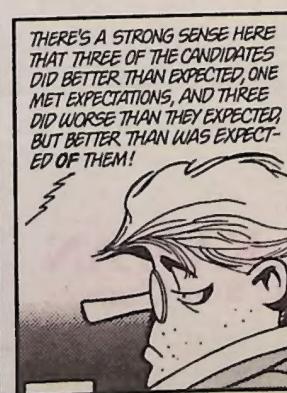
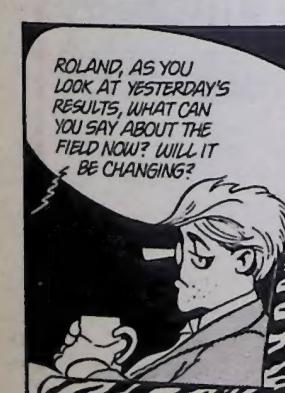
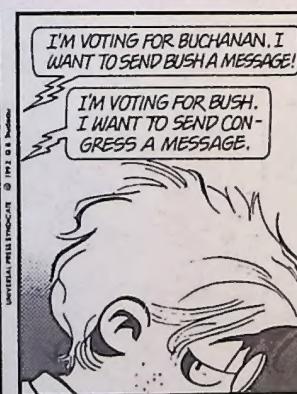
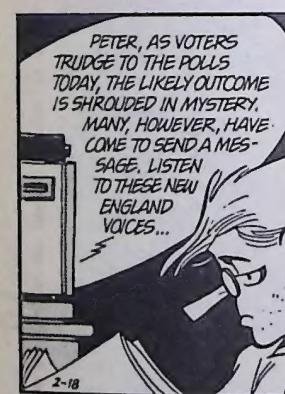
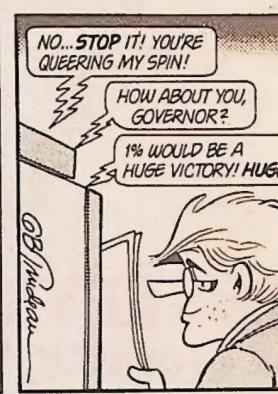
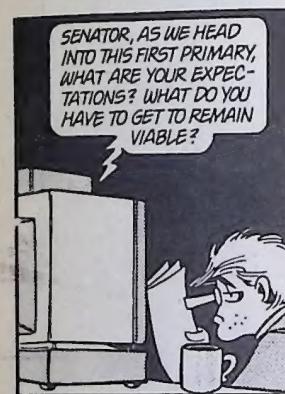
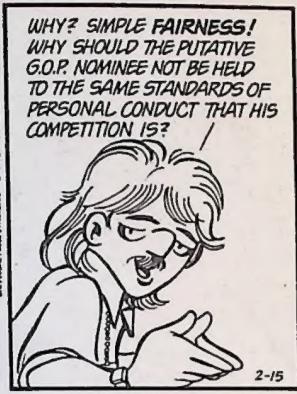
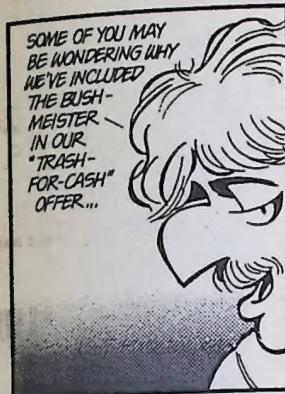




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9. You're dating a married father of three with presidential ambitions. You believe that you and he have a future together. Explain.

10. Name three movies besides "Pretty Woman" that have helped shape your personal philosophy.



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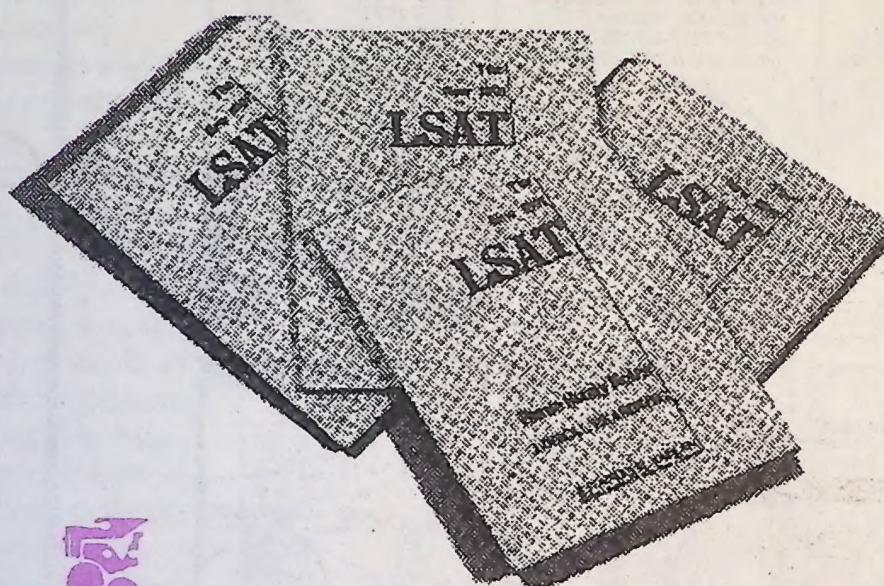
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